



News from
Councilmember Todd Gloria

City of San Diego ▪ District Three

STATEMENT

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**The Bittersweet Budget Proposal
Fire Engine Brownouts End, Park and Library Brownouts Begin**

SAN DIEGO, CA (April 14, 2011) – Councilmember Todd Gloria, Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee, commented on the proposed budget released by Mayor Jerry Sanders today.

As the chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee, I am proud that the City Council has taken a much more proactive role in the budget process this year. Starting in January, my Committee led the way in developing budget priorities, which were adopted by the full City Council:

- *Completing the fiscal reforms from Proposition D;*
- *Protecting public safety;*
- *Adhering to our guiding principles for the elimination of the structural budget deficit;*
- *Identifying and funding mandated and core services;*
- *and implementing full cost recovery for programs supported by fees.*

I am glad to see that the Mayor's proposed budget reflects many of these goals.

The Mayor's budget proposal includes many other responsible elements.

- *It includes the full pension payment.*
- *It maintains our reserves level.*
- *It addresses deferred infrastructure needs.*

Of course, I want to thank the Mayor for hearing the calls from me, my colleagues and so many community members and proposing a budget that ends fire station brownouts.

As glad as I will be to have Engine 11 in Golden Hill and Engine 14 in North Park and the others back in service, this restoration is only a result of prioritization; we have not grown any new money.

Last Fall, Mayor Sanders and I spent considerable time advocating for a temporary sales tax increase to help right the City's financial ship so brownouts could end and additional cuts could be avoided. Prop D didn't pass and we're still dealing with a budget deficit, hence the very significant cuts are now being proposed.

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This budget proposes over \$5 million in cuts to police, including the elimination of 20 sworn-officer positions. Library pairings – where neighboring libraries will be open on alternate days – and recreation center hours will be severely cut. Basically, we will now be browning out our library and parks systems.

These are devastating cuts, especially to the low-income, urban neighborhoods I represent.

As we look at the proposed cuts, it's important to remember that things could be even worse. Just this Monday, the City adopted collective bargaining agreements with our City employees that will yield nearly \$38 million in savings in the next fiscal year, and hundreds of millions in pension and health care savings in the years to come. Had our employees not agreed to pay and benefit reductions, the cuts in the Mayor's budget would have been deeper. I thank our employees for helping us address our financial challenges while continuing to serve the public.

I am anxious to delve deeper into this budget and to collect community input during our budget deliberations, which begin on May 4 with in depth reviews of the Police Department and the Fire-Rescue Department budget proposals.

I will conclude by thanking Mayor Sanders and Ms. Lewis for developing a budget that incorporates many of the suggestions and priorities the City Council has brought forward. This proposal demonstrates you share our concern for the safety of the public and I look forward to a time when we can restore more than just fire engine brownouts.

The budget is now in the hands of the City Council. As the Council's Budget Chair, the public has my commitment that we will aggressively review the Mayor's proposal, we will work hard to identify additional cost savings and we will use them to provide the citizens of our city with the highest level of service that we can afford.

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